

This exposition of the state of our affairs would evidently be incomplete, without some allusion to our tolls. We will, therefore, briefly state that, for the fiscal year ending on the 1st July, 1835, the tolls amounted to \$19,947; but that for the half year ending on the 1st of January, 1836, they amounted to \$17,864, exhibiting an increase of nearly one hundred per cent. And as, during this half year, the water was drawn off from the canal for one month, in order to make repairs and improvements, this rapid increase of tolls is therefore the result of about five months of trade. That these will still more rapidly and progressively increase, there is every reason to believe, from the extensive facilities now offered in the 109 miles of canal which have been completed, and in the economy and security which this kind of transportation furnishes.

Under these circumstances, the Board of Directors have felt it incumbent on them to restrict the lettings of work to an extent much below that for which they had advertised. They could not, in justice to themselves and the many respectable bidders who offered, involve the Company and its contractors in obligations, without the certain means of meeting them. Previously, however, to adopting this determination, the Board referred the matter to a committee of its body, whose report, herewith subjoined, and being approved by the Board, will the better inform your honorable bodies of the extent of work now in activity, and in immediate contemplation, with our present means.

When the dimensions of our canal are considered, the nature of its structures, the difficulties, moral and physical, with which we have had to contend, we feel confident that more could not have been done than has been, with the same means. And when we contemplate the object in view, we feel equally confident that the expenditure now anticipated will be fully justified and amply rewarded. If, therefore, the announcement made in this memorial should offer some violence to preconceived notions, we have, nevertheless, no fears that reason will resume her empire, and if left freely to exercise her power, will fully sustain the Board in the course it has pursued. We must insist that this great and noble enterprise, the pride of our country, the admiration of foreigners, the example